



**MINUTES
BUDGET WORKSHOP
Saturday, March 9, 2019
100 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc, CA**

8:30 A.M. – Morning Reception Council Chamber

City Council and Staff Meet & Greet with Public

OPEN SESSION – 9:00 A.M. – Council Chamber

ROLL CALL – City Council:

Council Members Present: Victor Vega, James Mosby, Dirk Starbuck, Gilda Cordova, and Mayor Jenelle Osborne.

Staff Present: City Manager Jim Throop, City Clerk Stacey Haddon, Management Services Director Dean Albro, and Development Program Specialist Jasmine McGinty.

Others Present: DA Taylor, Ron Fink, Hank Gallina, Eric DeLaCruz, George King, Ann Rughe, Peter (Last Name Unknown), Sue Coupland, Tiffany DeLaCruz, Justin Ruhge, Deb Andrews, Jacob DeLaCruz, Scott Meile, Steve Bridge, Jeremy Ball, Sylvia King, Karen Powers, Dan Kessler, Leah Shanna, Lisa Redken, and Nicholas Gonzales.

Mayor Osborne led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. City Council Visioning and Goal Setting for the Fiscal Year 2019/2021 Budget Cycle.

City Manager Jim Throop gave a brief summary of the format of the workshop; explained a goal should be what will help guide government decisions and navigate Staff and the public in a common and agreed upon direction for the City.

Management Services Director Dean Albro spoke about the current financial state of the City, thanked everyone for attending and contributing to this discussion.

Council Member Mosby asked Staff to clarify why the City is currently in a deficit. Management Services Director Dean Albro stated the City had estimated a certain amount of revenues in the 17/19 Budget and those estimates were not realized.

City Manager Jim Throop provided examples of other California city's list of goals.

Public Comment:

1. DA Taylor stated the City's goal should be a livable desirable community where the citizens feel safe and secure.
2. Ron Fink expressed concern about the lack of adequate professional safety personnel and advocated for the City to work towards filling the vacancies in Public Safety.
3. Hank Gallina encouraged Council to reach out to the Lompoc Unified School District and work in partnership with the District to improve local schools, stating schools and a successful education system are powerful economic drivers for a city.
4. Eric Delacruz, Tiffany Delacruz, and Jacob Delacruz spoke about the need for the City to make its youth a priority.
5. George King expressed concern about aging infrastructure and stated the City needs to concentrate efforts on code enforcement and clean up trash, weeds, and broken curbs.

NEW BUSINESS: (cont'd)

Public Comment:

6. Ann Ruhge urged Council to make Public Safety its first priority with the first goal being fully staffing the Fire Department and the Police Department; and reminded everyone the positive impact active public libraries have on a community, including helping to lower crime rates.
7. (Unknown Last Name Family) spoke about their recent move into Lompoc, a burglary experienced at their home just a few months after they moved in to their home and the need for funding for the Police Department.
8. Peter Lucero stated the City needs to define an identity for Lompoc that would allow all citizens and City Staff to work towards the same goal, he suggested Lompoc become a destination and incorporate people friendly urban planning ideas and techniques.
9. Sue Coupland agreed the City needs a purposeful identification, stating an obvious one would be centered around space; suggested the City work on an economic partnership with Vandenberg Air Force Base; bring in more revenues because services cannot be funded without revenue sources; work on retaining existing businesses and expanding opportunities for youth.
10. Justin Ruhge proposed the City approve a tax measure be placed on the next ballot stating the City has a large unfunded liability to the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) and that liability is not something the City can ignore or delete.
11. Deb Andrews asked Council to review how each dollar is spent, spoke in favor of providing events and opportunities for the area's youth and spoke against the use of cannabis.
12. Scott Meile spoke in favor of allowing a tax measure which exclusively funds public safety, on the next ballot.
13. (Name Unknown) suggested the City works with citizens for volunteer clean-up.
14. Steve Bridge suggested successful economic development would be easier and faster to attain if there were less regulations for businesses to maneuver; and would like to see measurable goals.
15. Jeremy Ball wants to talk about a sales tax measure and encouraged Council to listen to the community about the need for professional and fully staffed Public Safety Departments.
16. (Name not given) reminded Council they are a representative government; stated revenues will be realized with a Council that brings more jobs and housing opportunities to the area with a business friendly attitude; spoke against placing any tax measures on the ballot; and suggested the City hire a volunteer coordinator.
17. Karen Powers stated she loves Lompoc, is in favor of a livable wage for public safety personnel, wants Lompoc to be a safe town, is in favor of a tax measure, agrees there is a need for more youth events and opportunities for youth to be positively engaged with the community, and likes the idea of Lompoc being a destination.

NEW BUSINESS: (cont'd)

Public Comment:

18. Dan Kessler expressed concern about the large amount of empty commercial spaces in the City as well as the visible need for maintenance and cleanup of public streets and sidewalks.
19. Leah Shanna thanked Council for this time and for holding the Workshop, she stated her first goal would be for Public Safety and second would be for Economic Development; and spoke about the recommendations provided by the public here at the Workshop and with the on-line survey, stating those recommendations for a goal are first for Public Safety and second for Economic Development.
20. Lisa Renken stated State representatives and other outside agencies continue to speak of Lompoc in a negative way; Public Safety, Economic Development, arts, and parks are all important to a successful city.
21. Nicholas Gonzales stated he believes there is a large percentage of Lompoc citizens who would not be able to bear the cost of a new tax and requested Council review the impact of any new revenue raising policies.

Mayor Osborne asked Staff to speak about General Fund monies. Management Services Director Dean Albro explained public safety takes the majority of General Fund monies. City Manager Jim Throop stated Staff is continuously looking to identify and bring in more revenue and not rely on a sales tax.

BREAK:

At 10:42 A.M. Mayor Osborne announced a break. At 11:00 A.M., the meeting reconvened with all Council Members present.

City Manager Jim Throop explained Staff is working to provide a current budget review and budget kickoff report at the March 19, 2019 Regular City Council Meeting.

Council Member Vega stated he wants measurable goals with plans of action and have the Fire Department and Police Department provide their own goals.

Council Member Mosby explained it was his understanding the list of items provided by the Council in February 2017, regarding the 2017-19 Biennial Budget and titled **City Council Budget Priorities List**, was the Council's most current list of goals; stated the Council gave raises to the Fire Department and the Police Department in the 2017-19 Biennial Budget and did so because Staff gave the Council erroneous information.

Mayor Osborne suggested Council give direction to Staff to work on the Vision or Mission Statement for the City; explained the Council goals should be large and overarching and provided the following list of goals for Council's consideration and discussion:

- Insure a safe & supportive City through fully staffed and equipped Public Safety Departments.
- Implement a Community Development Program that improves opportunities for growth of residents and businesses.
- Provide support and partnerships that empower community members and volunteers ability to improve Lompoc.
- Determine a sustainable financial plan.

NEW BUSINESS: (cont'd)

Council continued to discuss the matter and with a general consensus, directed Staff to use the list provided by the Mayor as the Council's Goals and incorporate the suggestions provided by the City's budget goals survey and during public comment during this meeting as well as the City Council Budget Priorities List which was established on February 27, 2017, under the appropriate Goal.

City Council Goal Setting Workshop – Public Comment

Goals

- Safety/ Public safety mentioned by 11 people
- Public Safety staffing mentioned by 4 people
- Police/ Fire Dept. Funding – 4 people
- Livable community – 2 people
- Education – 4 people
- Youth Services – 10 people
- City Beautification/ Clean up City – 6 people
- Housing – 2 people
- City identification/ destination city – 4 people
- Economic Development – 5 people
- Growth/ boundary expansion – 2 people
- Raise Sales Tax/ Revenue Generation – 7 people
- Financial Security – 1 person
- Library Services – 1 person
- Community Partnerships/ Volunteers – 4 people
- Reduce regulation – 1 person
- Jobs/ Business Environment – 1 person
- Senior Services – 1 person
- Tourism – 1 person
- Parks – 1 person
- Arts – 1 person

Challenges

- Crime/ Safety – mentioned by 8 people
- Clean up city/ image of Lompoc – 5 people
- Budget/ debt – 4 people
- Lack of programs, services, activities – 1 person
- Business failure – 1 person
- Housing / cost of housing – 1 person
- Homelessness – 1 person

City Council Budget Priorities List – Established February 27, 2017

1. Market Rate Housing Incentives
2. Business Incentives
3. Public Safety Personnel Retention
4. Retrofit of Fire Station No. 1
5. Funding/Savings Plans for Construction of New fire Station and Police Station
6. Rehabilitation of Turf at City Parks
7. Business Counter – revisions/changes to hours of business, project tracking, greater efficiencies, and customer friendliness
8. Upgraded Restrooms in City Parks

Mayor Osborne thanked the public for attending the meeting, encouraged every citizen to become and remain involved in this process.

ADJOURNMENT: At 12:05 P.M. Mayor Osborne adjourned the Lompoc City Council to a Regular Meeting on March 19, 2019 at 6:30 P.M., in City of Lompoc Council Chamber.

Approved by Council action on April 2, 2019:

/Stacey Haddon/
Stacey Haddon, City Clerk